

1: Federal W-5 (no date) 1986
NN23 Sea Islanders NN23
Georgia

BROWNVILLE

757 I make a medicine out uh duh spiduh⁸ by stooiin eel skin in
825 lahd wid it. Wen dis is done, I hab a saave dat will stop
any kine uh pain. On duh iluns, specially St. Catherine, duh
spiduh is hel in high regahd by some uh duh people.⁵³

757 "I make muh medicine out uh King Physic root, an Indian
Ash, an Tukish Wine. Wen I wuz a boy I lun many tings
frum duh ole people bout herbs dat wuz good fuh diffunt ail-
ments. Deah wuzn so many doctuh in dem days. We hab
tuh fine remedies fuh our sickness an know how tuh cuo snake
bite aw cuts an boils, eben female complaints. So I lun wut
herbs tuh use fuh deze ailments too.

• (752) "I kin cuo any rattlesnake bite in twenty-fo hours. Duh
remedy is King Physic, tuhpentine, an whiskey. Attuh duh
pizen is kill, gib em plenty sweet milk an ebryting will be all
right in twenty-fo hours.

(237) "Duh spiduh web is good fuh stoppin duh blood wen any-
(825) body git cut. I make a saave by stooiin physic vine leaves
an talluh an spiduh tuhgedduh. Dis saave will relieve any
bruise aw ole so. It draw all duh pizen out uh duh so.^{48a, b}

775 "Tuh keep ghos away, missus, yuh hab tuh go in duh
789 woods an fine a tree dat wuz strik by lightin, an git some uh
duh bahk an put some unduh duh doe step an carry a piece
in yuh pocket. No ghos would ebuh bodduh yuh agen. I
done dat an ain been bodduh since. Now all yuh hab tuh do
tuh keep witches frum ridin yuh is keep a Bible unduh yuh
pilluh at night."¹³

759 Another root doctor * in the section told us that he had
757 been born with a special knowledge of healing and had
115 studied the science of herbs from the time he was a small
278 boy.⁴⁸ Some of the herbs he uses in his mixtures are Golden
Seal, Yellow Dust, Golden Thread, Hippo Root, Pink Root,
Lady Slipper, Yellow Root, Blood Root, Rattlesnake Mas-
ter, Black Snake Root, and John the Conqueror.

(787) "I know in a dream," he said, "jis wen a patient is comin

* George W. Little, 757 West 34th Street.

Mrs. Janie Hunter

THEY WORKED THEIR OWN REMEDY

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We doesn't go to no doctor. My daddy used to cook medicine—herbs medicine: seamuckle, pine top, life everlasting, shoemaker root, ground moss, peachtree leaf, big-root, bloodroot, red oak bark, terrywuk.

Now when my children have fever I boil life everlasting; squeeze little lemon juice in it. Once they go to bed it strike that fever right away. That something very good.

And you hear about children have worm? We got something call jimsey weed. You put it in a cloth and beat it. And when you done beat it, you squeeze the juice out of it, and you put four, five drop of turpentine in it, give children that to drink. You give a dose of castor oil behind 'em. You don't have to take 'em to no doctor.

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If anybody fall down and break bone, my daddy get a towel and pour some water in the basin—put half a bottle of white vinegar in it. He hot the towel and bathe the leg in some mud. Go in the creek and get some mud, band that whole leg up in mud. Couple days you be walking. That knits it right back together.

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For a cut, to stop 'em from bleeding. Daddy just get a big spoonful of sugar and throw 'em in there. He say once a cut stop bleeding it's not dangerous. Spider webs grow up in the house and you get that and tie 'em on. Web grow right in there.

If you get sores you get something you call St. John out in the field. And you see those little bump grow on a gum tree; you get them and you burn them two together and just tie 'em right on that wound. That heals right up.

When my little boy got a nail stuck in his feet, I got a basin of hot water with physic salt and let him hold he feet down in that—draw the poison out. Then I tie a piece of butts meat on it. His foot get better.

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You hear about some little thing run back in its hole—fiddler crab? We use that for whooping cough. Catch the crab, boil 'em up with something else—I can't 'call the name—and strain 'em through a white cloth. Give that for drink. It'll cure the running whoop.

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All this from old people time when they hardly been any doctor. People couldn't afford doctor, so they had to have and guess. Those old people dead out now, but they worked their own remedy and their own remedy come out good.